

**Statement by Kevin Conole, Alternate U.S. Representative to the  
65<sup>th</sup> Session of UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on Agenda  
Item 7, “Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee”  
June 2, 2022**

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Thank you, Mr. Chair. The United States would like to thank Ambassador Juan Francisco Facetti of Paraguay for his steady chairmanship of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC). As always, the U.S. delegation extends our sincere gratitude to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their dedicated support of the Subcommittee and its many activities.

The United States again notes with particular pleasure the successful development of the 21 Guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (LTS), as they represent best practices for the safe and responsible use of space. We appreciate the steady leadership of Mr. R. Umamaheswaran of India, as Chair of the “LTS 2.0” working group, which adopted a terms of reference, program of work and workplan. The adopted LTS 2.0 workplan envisions that national and observer inputs as well as outcomes from the 2024 workshop in Vienna will form the basis, in 2025, for the development of specific recommendations on the three topics which were established as the LTS 2.0 mandate in June 2019.

Mr. Chair, as the current mandate for the Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space concludes, the United States now joins so many of our colleagues supporting an extension of its mandate to allow for the continued sharing of information to promote further understanding and development of effective processes to ensure the safe use of nuclear power in space.

Regarding Near-Earth Objects (or NEOs), the United States is an active member of the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Mission Planning and Advisory Group, which provide a strong foundation for international cooperation to deal with the potential threat of impacts of natural objects from space. Later today, NASA will provide a technical presentation on the Double Asteroid Redirection Test.

Mr. Chair, the United States is pleased to see the international community recognize that space weather is an international concern, requiring understanding, preparation, and coordination to predict potentially severe events and to mitigate their impacts. The United States is undertaking efforts to support and implement the recently adopted LTS guidelines, particularly guidelines B.6 and B.7, which are

focused on space weather. We look forward to the Space Weather Expert Group concluding its work next year and producing a useful final report.

Under the agenda item on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (or GNSS), the United States remains actively engaged in the International Committee on Global Navigation Systems (ICG) work aimed at creating an interoperable, multi-GNSS space service volume, which will enable improved navigation for future space operations beyond GEO to even lunar missions.

Mr. Chair, the United States would once again like to thank the Member States and observers who have discussed the impact of new satellite constellations for the provision of broadband worldwide and as a potential source of interference to astronomical observations. The U.S. delegation encourages ongoing efforts of all interested nations, satellite operators, the scientific community, and others to evaluate both the extent of the challenge and means to address them with the new generation of large constellations of satellites. Astronomers and satellite providers within the United States have been actively working together towards a sustainable future - for the important provision of low-latency broadband service and for future discoveries enabled by astronomy. This work has included numerous optical and radio observations, with technical work being published and presented at international conferences. We are also pleased that the National Science Foundation's NOIRLab is supporting the collaborative work and coordinating efforts of the International Astronomical Union, as co-hosts with the SKA Observatory of the newly formed IAU Centre for the Protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky.

Mr. Chair, the United States would like to address our participation in the international Cospas-Sarsat satellite search and rescue program that provides coverage for emergency beacons carried on vessels, aircraft, and individual users around the world. Presently, 43 countries and two organizations are formally associated with the International Cospas-Sarsat Program. Last year, the Cospas-Sarsat Program helped rescue 330 people from potentially life-threatening situations throughout the United States and its surrounding waters. Since its start in 1982, COSPAS-SARSAT program is credited with supporting more than 48,000 rescues worldwide, including more than 9,700 in the United States and its surrounding waters.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.